Sl. No.	Name of the Service Area	Total No. of eligible uncovered villages	VPTs on DSPT*	VPTs on WLL**	VPTs Provided Upto 31.12.2005	Balance remaining uncovered
16.	North East-II	1,550	1,289	261	30	1,520
17.	Orissa	4,899	4,899	0	0	4,899
18.	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Rajasthan	12,386	18	12,368	4,332	8,054
20.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Uttaranchal	3,881	3,544	337	206	3,675
24.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL:	66,822	14,183	52,639	17,182	49,640

*DSPT—Digital Satellite Phone Terminal

**WLL—Wireless in Local Loop

Utilization of funds allocated for rural telephony

745. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of Rs. 8,000 crore collected under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), only Rs. 1,800 crore have been used so far to provide rural telephony;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps being contemplated by Government to use the remaining portion in promotion of telephony in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) An amount of Rs. 7,254.56 crore has been collected upto March, 2005 under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). Anticipated collection for 2005-06 is Rs. 3,303 crore. Till 31-12-2005, an amount of Rs. 3,216.39 crore has been disbursed to telecom service providers towards provision of rural telephony.

(b) The Universal Service Support Policy came into effect from 1.4.2002.

The year-wise amount collected and allocated/disbursed is as under:—

Year	Collected	Amount (Rs. in crores) Allocated & Disbursed
2002-03	1,653.61	300.00
2003-04	2,143.22	200.00
2004-05	3,457.73	1,314.585
2005-06	3,303(anticipated)	1,750.00 (Rs.1,401.71 crores has been disbursed so far)

(c) The following steps are being taken by Government to use USOF to promote telephony in rural areas:

(i) Operation and maintenance of existing 3.6 lakh Village Public Telephones (VPTs);

(ii) Replacement of Multi Access Radio Really (MARR) VPTs;

(iii) Provision of VPTs in a time-bound manner in the unconnected eligible villages excluding villages having less than 100 population, lying in thick forest area/naxalite infested area etc;

(iv) Provision of Rural Community Phones (RCPs) in a time-bound manner in villages with population more than 2,000 and where there are no Public Call Offices (PCOs);

(v) Provision of Individual Rural Phone Connection (RDELs) on demand in 1,685 commercially unviable Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs);

(vi) Provision of High Speed Tele-Info-Centres (HPTICs) in 2,000 villages on pilot basis;

(vii) Support for providing Shareable Infrastructure for wireless mobile service in rural and remote areas.